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Novel synthetic method for allylic amination of cyclic allylic ethers using chlorosulfonyl isocyanate

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ABSTRACT

The introduction of amines to allylic or benzylic position of cyclic compounds with chlorosulfonyl isocyanate is developed in high to excellent yields. This method provides a novel access to biologically active compounds including the framework of 1-aminoindanes, 1-aminotetralines, and 1-amino-2-hydroxy cyclic compounds. Mechanistic evidence for the reaction pathway is also provided.

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Considerable effort has been devoted in the last decades toward new methods for forming carbon-nitrogen bonds. Traditional methods can be divided into two large categories such as nucleophilic substitution¹ and direct amination.² Representative examples for nucleophilic substitution include metal-catalyzed nucleophilic substitutions,^{1a-c} Mitsunobu reactions,^{1d} Overmann rearrangement,^{1e} and Gabriel amination.^{1f,1g} The direct amination methods involve the nitrene addition,^{2a} [2,2]- or [2,3]-cycloaddition reactions,^{2b,c} and reductive amination.^{2d} In particular, cycloaddition reactions between alkenes and an imine moiety in chlorosulfonyl isocyanate have found great utility in synthetic chemistry and are now valuable tools that are employed routinely.³ As a result, carbon-nitrogen bond formation using chlorosulfonyl isocyante can often be found as common synthetic steps in numerous total syntheses of biologically active natural and unnatural compounds, and their synthetic derivatives.⁴ In contrast, an alternative chemical reaction was found to afford allylic carbamates from allylic ethers using chlorosulfonyl isocyante.⁵ Moreover, this methodology was applied to the total synthesis of biologically active polyhydroxylated alkaloids.⁶ This transformation is an elegant example of avoiding prefunctionalization for the introduction of an amine moiety, and for avoiding postmanipulation such as protection of the amine functionality.

As a part of an ongoing research program aimed at the effective total synthesis of biologically active cyclic natural products and drugs, we envisioned the regioselective allylic amination of cyclic allylic ethers to give cyclic allylic amine compounds, which can be effectively transformed into biologically active natural and unnatural compounds, that is, rasagiline,⁷ sertraline,⁸ abacavir,⁹ and acarbose,¹⁰ as shown in Figure 1.

The initial study focused on the reaction of benzyl cyclohex-2enyl ether (**1a**) with CSI by varying the solvent and temperature to optimize the yield, and the results are summarized in Table 1.¹¹ The reaction in methylene chloride at -78 °C and 0 °C furnished the corresponding carbamate **2a** in 78% and 85% yield, respectively (Table 1, entries 1 and 2).¹² However, the reaction in a nonpolar solvent, such as toluene and hexanes, provided slightly lower reaction rates and chemical yields (Table 1, entries 3–5).

The optimal reaction conditions established for the allylic amination of cyclic benzylic ether **1a** were applied to cyclic allylic ethers **1b–e** and cyclic aliphatic ether **1f**, as shown in Table 2.

Treatment of cyclopentenyl ether **1b** with CSI in methylene chloride at 0 °C afforded the corresponding carbamate **2b** in 81% yield (Table 2, entry 2). In the case of cyclohexenyl ethers **1c** and **1d**, the desired products **2c** and **2d** were generated in good yield, regardless of the hydroxyl protection groups (Table 2, entries 1, 3, and 4). The introduction of a methyl moiety at the 3-position decreased the reaction rate slightly (Table 2, entry 5). However, the reaction of cyclohexyl benzyl ether **1f** was ineffective, even at an increased reaction temperature and time under otherwise identical conditions (Table 2, entry 6). This is presumably due to the formation of a relatively unstable secondary carbocation intermediate, compared to the allylic secondary one.





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Figure 1. Biologically active compounds containing 1-amino cycloallylic or benzocylic scaffold.

Table 1

Optimization of the reaction of benzyl cyclohex-2-enyl ether (1a) with CSI



^a Isolated yield of pure materials.

Table 2

Reaction of cyclic allylic ethers 1a-e and cyclic aliphatic ether 1f with CSI

Next, the reaction of bicylic benzylic ethers **3a** with CSI was examined. After further optimization, 1-benzyloxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-naphthalene (**3a**) was converted to the corresponding product **4a** at -78 °C for 3 h under otherwise identical conditions. However, the reaction between compound **3a** and CSI above 0 °C afforded compound **4a** in low yield (50%) and 1,2-dihydronaphthalene as the eliminated byproduct in 43% yield. With the optimal reaction condition established, the substrate scope was explored, as shown in Table 3.

Treatment of 1-benzyloxy indane 3b and 1-methoxy indane 3c with CSI under these standard conditions gave the desired products **4b** and **4c**, respectively, in excellent yield (Table 3, entries 2 and 3). However, when the benzyloxy group was located at the C-2 position, the amination product 4d was not formed, even at an increased reaction temperature and time under otherwise identical conditions. This is presumably due to the formation of a relatively unstable secondary carbocation intermediate, compared to the benzylic secondary one. (Table 3, entry 4). In addition, 4-(benzyloxy)chroman 3e and 9-(benzyloxy)-9H-fluorene 3f were converted into compound 4e (59%) and compound 4f (70%), respectively, even though this required an increased reaction temperature and an extended reaction time, as shown in entries 5 and 6. In addition, 1,2-anti-dibenzyloxy tetraline 3g led to the formation of the C-1 adduct 4g with excellent regioselectivity and anti-diastereoselectivity of 99 > 1 (Table 3, entry 7).

To gain further insight into the reaction mechanism, additional experiments were performed using isotopically labeled allylic ether (*deuterio-1a*) under different solvents. As shown in Table 4, the incorporation of deuterium is dependent on the dielectric constant of the solvent. In particular, the use of *n*-hexanes provided a mixture of *deuterio*-product **5a** and *iso-deuterio*-product **5b** at the interior allylic position (95%) and the exterior vinylic position (5%).

A plausible reaction mechanism appears based on isotopically labeled experiments, as outlined in Figure 2. The initial attack by the oxygen of benzyl ether to CSI delivers an oxonium ion (I),

		OR 1) CSI (150 mol%) Na ₂ CO ₃ (300 mol%), 2) sat. Na ₂ SO ₃	CH_2Cl_2 NHCOOR		
Entry	Allylic ether	Product	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield ^a (%)
1	OBn 1a	NHCOOBn 2a	0	1	85
2	OBn 1b	NHCOOBn	0	1	81
3			0	1	83
4	OPMB 1d	NHCOOPMB	0	1	70
5	OBn 1e	NHCOOBn 2e	0	2	70
6	OBn 1f	NHCOOBn	rt	24	No reaction

^a Isolated yield of pure materials.

Table 3

Reaction of bicylic benzylic ethers **3a-g** with CSI



Entry	Allylic ether	Product	Temp (°C)	Time (h)	Yield ^a (%)
1	OBn 3a	NHCOOBn 4a	-78	3	82
2	OBn 3b	NHCOOBn 4b	-78	1	90
3	OMe 3c	NHCOOMe 4c	-78	1	86
4	OBn 3d	NHCOOBn 4d	rt	24	No reaction
5	OBn 3e	NHCOOBn 4e	rt	12	59
6	OMe 3f	NHCOOMe 4f	rt	12	70
7	OBn ,,OBn 3g	NHCOOBn	-40	24	68

^a Isolated yield of pure materials.

Table 4

Isotopically labeled experiments

		OBn D D 1) CSI (150 mol%) Na ₂ CO ₃ (300 mol%) 2) sat. Na ₂ SO ₃ deuterio -1a	NHCOOBn NH	COOBn	
Entry	Solvent	Dielectric constant (°C)	Time (h)	Yield ^a (%)	Ratio ^b (5a:5b)
1	CH ₃ NO ₂	35.87 (30)	1	80	81:19
2	CH ₂ Cl ₂	9.14 (20)	1	79	91:9
3	n-Hexanes	1.90 (20)	10	80	95:5

Isolated yield of pure materials.

^b Ratio was determined by ¹H NMR and ²H NMR analysis.

which can be converted to the deuterio-product 5a as a major compound through a 4-centered transition structure (IIa) according to a $S_N i$ mechanism. This is consistent with the results of isotopic labeling under nonpolar *n*-hexanes solvent, compared to relatively polar nitromethane and dichloromethane solvents. Another plausible $S_N 1$ mechanism can be in competition with the $S_N i$ mechanism. However, this reaction may be partially proceed via S_N1 mechanism due to the incomplete orbital overlap between p orbital of the double bond and p orbital of cyclic allylic sp² carbocation in the reaction intermediate (IIb).

In conclusion, we have reported the introduction of protected amines to the ring system by a treatment of various alkyl ethers at the allylic and benzylic positions with chlorosulfonyl isocyanate in high yield. These aminations are believed to proceed through a S_{Ni} mechanism. This synthetic methodology can be applied easily to the preparation of various biologically active natural products and drugs containing a cyclic amine moiety.

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Figure 2. Proposed reaction pathway (S_Ni vs S_N1).

Supplementary data

Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.tetlet.2011.02.036.

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- 11. General procedure for the reaction of cyclic allylic ether with chlorosulfonyl isocyanate (CSI): To a mixture of cyclic allylic ether (0.53 mmol) in anhydrous CH_2Cl_2 (2 mL, 0.27 M) was added Na_2CO_3 (1.59 mmol, 300 mol %) at 0 °C under N_2 . After being stirred for 20 min, CSI (0.80 mmol, 150 mol %) was slowly added at 0 °C under N_2 . The reaction mixture was stirred at indicated temperature for reaction time (see Tables 1-4), quenched with H_2O (10 mL) when the reaction was completed (TLC monitoring), and then extracted with EtOAc (25 mL × 2). The organic layer was added to saturated aqueous solution of Na_2SO_3 (10 mL), and the reaction mixture was stirred for 5 h at room temperature. The organic layer was washed with H_2O and brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 and concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified by column chromatography (*n*-hexanes/EtOAc) to afford product.
- 12. Selected characterization (**2a**): $R_{\rm f}$ = 0.14 (*n*-hexanes/EtOAc = 10/1); mp 66.2 °C; IR (KBr) ν 3313, 3034, 2936, 1685, 1531, 1306, 1241, 1036 cm⁻¹; ¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 1.49–1.68 (m, 3H), 1.88–2.02 (m, 3H), 4.21–4.23 (m, 1H), 4.70–4.72 (m, 1H), 5.10 (s, 2H), 5.59–5.64 (m, 1H), 5.80–5.86 (m, 1H), 7.28– 7.43 (m, 5H); ¹³C NMR (75 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 19.51, 24.67, 29.64, 46.27, 66.49, 127.64, 127.99, 128.05, 128.43, 130.74, 136.54, 155.57; HRMS (EI) Calcd for C₁₄H₁₇NO₂ [M]* 231.1259, found 231.1259.